

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 301340
ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 301340

USEEC ACTION, BRUSSELS INFO, USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, EWWT

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION NOTE VERBALE ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL
SHELF LANDS ACT AMENDMENT OF 1977

REP OF THE EC COMMISSION (SNOW) PRESENTED EUR/RPE WITH THE
FOLLOWING NOTE VERBALE ON DECEMBER 13.

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BEGIN TEXT: THE DELEGATION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE OUTER CONTINENTAL
SHELF LANDS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1977 (H.R. 1614) WHICH IS
PRESENTLY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE DELEGATION WISHES TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE U.S.

ADMINISTRATION IN PARTICULAR TO SECTION 31 OF THIS BILL. THIS SECTION NOT ONLY RESERVES THE MANNING OF VESSELS, RIGS AND PLATFORMS USED ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF TO UNITED STATES CITIZENS, BUT SUCH VEHICLES WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE DOCUMENTED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES. THESE PROVISIONS, PROHIBITING NOT ONLY FOREIGN-BUILT VESSELS FROM ENGAGING IN TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ITS OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF BUT ALSO EXCLUDING FOREIGN FIRMS FROM THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPLY VESSELS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF, CAUSE CONSIDERABLE CONCERN IN THE

COMMUNITY. MOREOVER, IT SEEMS THAT EVEN MORE FAR-REACHING AMENDMENTS ARE UNDER WAY, THAT WOULD INTRODUCE BUY AMERICAN CLAUSES TO THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF AS WELL.

THE DELEGATION WISHES TO REMIND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE PREVIOUS DEMARCHES WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE CONCERNING BOTH THE OPERATION OF THE MERCHANT MARINE ACT OF 1920 AND THE INTRODUCTION OF "BUY AMERICAN" PROVISIONS IN NEW LEGISLATION. IN THE LIGHT OF THE CURRENT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA, IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY REGRETTABLE SHOULD SUCH EXTENSIONS OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS, AS EMBODIED IN H.R. 1614, PASS INTO LAW.

FURTHERMORE, THE DELEGATION WISHES TO DRAW THE ATTENTION
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OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO THE NON-PREFERENTIAL CHARACTER OF MANNING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHSEA OIL AND GAS RESERVES AS WELL AS TO THE NON-DISCRIMINATORY CHARACTER OF THE PROCUREMENT RULES THERE.

THE DELEGATION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACCORDINGLY INVITES THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE SUCH STEPS AS MAY BE REQUIRED TO RESIST THE ENACTMENT OF SECTION 31 OF H.R. 1614.

THE DELEGATION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES TAKES THE OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE ASSURANCE OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.
END TEXT.

FYI: DEPARTMENT WILL PREPARE FORMAL REPLY AND ORALLY BRIEF THE EC REP ON THE STATUS OF THE ISSUES RAISED IN THE NOTE. REPLY WILL BE CABLED TO ADDRESSEE POSTS.
END FYI. VANCE

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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